

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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SUBJECT: US-USSR ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT, PROJECT V-2.1, PROTECTION
OF NORTHERN ECOSYSTEMS (02.05-21): ENVIRONMENTAL
PROBLEMS OF PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION

1. REQUEST EMBASSY PASS FOLLOWING DATED MARCH 11 TO DR. VIKTOR D. DENISOV, DEPUTY CHIEF, MAIN ADMINISTRATION FOR NATURE CONSERVATION, USSR MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WITH COPY TO KAZAKOV OF HYDROMET.
 2. "DEAR DR. DENISOV: THE MEMORANDUM OF FOURTH MEETING OF JOING COMMITTEE UNDER PROJECT V-2.1 ACTIVITY B-1 ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS OF PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION STATES "DURING THE SECOND AND THIRD QUARTERS OF 1976 RECIPROCAL VISITS OF SPECIALISTS WILL TAKE PLACE. A SOVIET DELEGATION WILL VISIT ALASKA FIRST, FOLLOWED BY A US DELEGATION VISITING USSR. BOTH DELEGATIONS WILL INCLUDE ENVIRONMENTAL AND PERMAFROST SPECIALISTS, CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERS, AND PIPELINE ADMINISTRATORS IN ORDER TO PROVIDE ALL WITH A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION."
 3. THE US SIDE PROPOSES TO HOST A SOVIET PIPELINE ENVIRONMENTAL DELEGATION DURING THE PERIOD JUNE 4-20, 1976. THE BASIS ITINERARY REMAINS ESSENTIALLY THE SAME AS PROPOSED LAST SUMMER. MEETINGS WOULD BE SCHEDULED IN ALASKA WITH ALYESKA PIPELINE SERVICE COMPANY (DEVELOPER OF THE TRANS ALASKA OIL PIPELINE), ALASKA
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PIPELINE OFFICE (DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR'S CONSTRUCTION AND

OPERATIONS MONITOR), STATE OF ALASKA PIPELINE COORDINATOR' OFFICE, EL PASO ALASKA COMPANY (PROSPECTIVE DEVELOPER OF THE GAS PIPELINE FROM PRUDHOE BAY TO THE VICINITY OF VALDEZ), ALASKA ARCTIC GAS PIPELINE COMPANY (PROSPECTIVE DEVELOPER OF THE GAS PIPELINE FROM PRUDHOE BAY ACROSS CANADA TO THE US MIDWEST), UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA, NAVAL ARCTIC RESEARCH LABORATORY, AND POSSIBLY OTHERS. OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE AFFORDED FOR EXTENSIVE OBSERVATION OF CONSTRUCTION OPERATIONS OF THE TRANS ALASKA PIPELINE. IN ADDITION, A VISIT WOULD BE SCHEDULED TO COLD REGIONS RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING LABORATORY IN HANOVER, NEW HAMPSHIRE, AT THE CONCLUSION OF ALASKA VISIT.

4. THE US SIDE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ARRANGING A RECIPROCAL VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION DURING THE PERIOD JULY 5-20. THIS WOULD ENABLE SOME MEMBERS OF THE US DELEGATION TO SUBSEQUENTLY PARTICIPATE IN THE JULY 22-26 INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL CONGRESS SYMPOSIUM IN LENINGRAD ON "GEOGRAPHY OF POLAR COUNTRIES."

5. DR. OSCAR J. FERRIANS OF US GEOLOGICAL SURVEY WILL HOST THE SOVIET VISIT AND LEAD THE US DELEGATION TO THE USSR. HE RECOMMENDS THAT EACH SIDE LIMIT ITS DELEGATION TO EIGHT MEMBERS IN ORDER TO FACILITATE TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS IN THE FIELD AND COMMUNICATION AMONG ALL PARTICIPANTS. THE EXCHANGE WILL TAKE PLACE ON A SENDING-SIDE-PAYS BASIS, EACH DELEGATION PAYING ALL COSTS OF COMMERCIAL TRANSPORTATION, LODGING, AND SUBSISTENCE. EACH HOST SIDE WILL FURNISH THE NECESSARY INTERPRETERS.

6. THUS FAR THE FOLLOWING HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED AS MEMBERS OF THE US DELEGATION: OSCAR J. FERRIANS, OREN C. BAPTIST (PETROLEUM ENGINEER OF ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION), FREDERICK B. CRORY (SOILS SCIENTIST OF COLD REGIONS RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING LABORATORY), AND CHARLES A. CHAMPION (STATE OF ALASKA PIPELINE COORDINATOR). IF THE SOVIET SIDE IS WILLING TO RECEIVE AN EIGHT-PERSON US DELEGATION, WE ALSO INTEND TO INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALYESKA, ARCTIC GAS, AND EL PASO PIPELINE COMPANIES.

7. I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR CONFIRMATION BY APRIL 1 WHETHER THESE PROPOSED DATES AND SIZES OF DELEGATIONS ARE ACCEPTABLE AND IF SO THE NAMES AND INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATIONS OF THE SOVIET DELEGATION.
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I WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE A DETAILED ITINERARY AND PROGRAM FOR THE US DELEGATION'S VISIT TO THE USSR. SINCERELY YOURS, RONALD O. SKOOG"

8. IN VIEW OF PAST DIFFICULTIES IN ARRANGING THESE VISITS, REQUEST EMBASSY IMPRESS UPON KAZAKOV DESIRABILITY OF EARLY DETAILED RESPONSE.
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